

sports and entertainment

Walking time 2 hours

Distance 4.75 Kilometres

Birrarung Marr, Royal Botanic Gardens and Melbourne's famous sports precinct.



From **Federation Square** (1), step down to the **Ferry Landings** (2) on Princes Walk.

Walk along the avenue of **Moreton Bay Figs** (3), following the bluestone edging on the Yarra bank that shows where the river was widened to prevent flooding.

Continue through the tranquil riverside until you arrive at **Birrarung Marr** (4), Melbourne's 21st century riverside park. 'Birrarung' means 'river of mists' in the language of the Wurundjeri people who originally lived here. 'Marr' was their name for the side of river we are on. Today, Melbourne's residents and visitors come to enjoy the great

outdoors and soak up the superb city views.

Walk from the **Sea Wall** (5) to the Footbridge and **Federation Bells** (6) on the middle terrace. Pass over **Redgum Gully** (7), planted with the type of trees that lined the Yarra before Europeans arrived. The **Billabong** (8) beside the river symbolises the lagoons that once dotted the area.



Federation Bells



Melbourne Park tennis

To the left of the Billabong, under the trees, is **Speakers Corner** (9). From the 1880s to the 1960s, Prime Ministers, communists, evangelists, suffragettes and ordinary citizens gathered here to state their case. Look among the mounds for the Speakers Sculptures that interpret the site.

Continue past the **Floating Landing** (10) near Swan Street Bridge.

To your left is **Melbourne Park** (11), home of the Australian Open. Rod Laver Arena is named after the Australian tennis great who won the 'Grand Slam' twice. Today, audiences at the Open top half a million every year. The park also includes the state-of-the-art Vodafone Arena that hosts tennis, basketball and cycling.

Further on, across the footbridge, still on the left, is Yarra Park, where Australian football evolved in the 1850s with gum trees as goal posts. Look for the light masts of the **Melbourne Cricket Ground** (12) or MCG - affectionately known as the 'G'. Every September crowds of over 100,000 come to watch the finals and Grand Final of Australian Rules Football. In the summer, cricket fans laze in the sun at Test matches which run for up to five days.

The MCG was also the legendary stadium of the 1956 Olympics. If you have time, take a tour and discover more about its place in sporting history.



Melbourne Cricket Ground



Joggers on the 'Tan'

Continue along the river, under the bridge, past **Olympic Park** (13). Athletics, cycling, soccer, speedway, rugby league, even greyhound races have been held here. Alongside Olympic Park you are walking above the underground CityLink Expressway, over the Burnley Tunnel (3.4 km

long and 60 metres deep) and the shallower **Domain Tunnel** (14) (1.6 km long).

Follow the elms to Morell Bridge, built over dry land in 1899 before the river was diverted underneath.

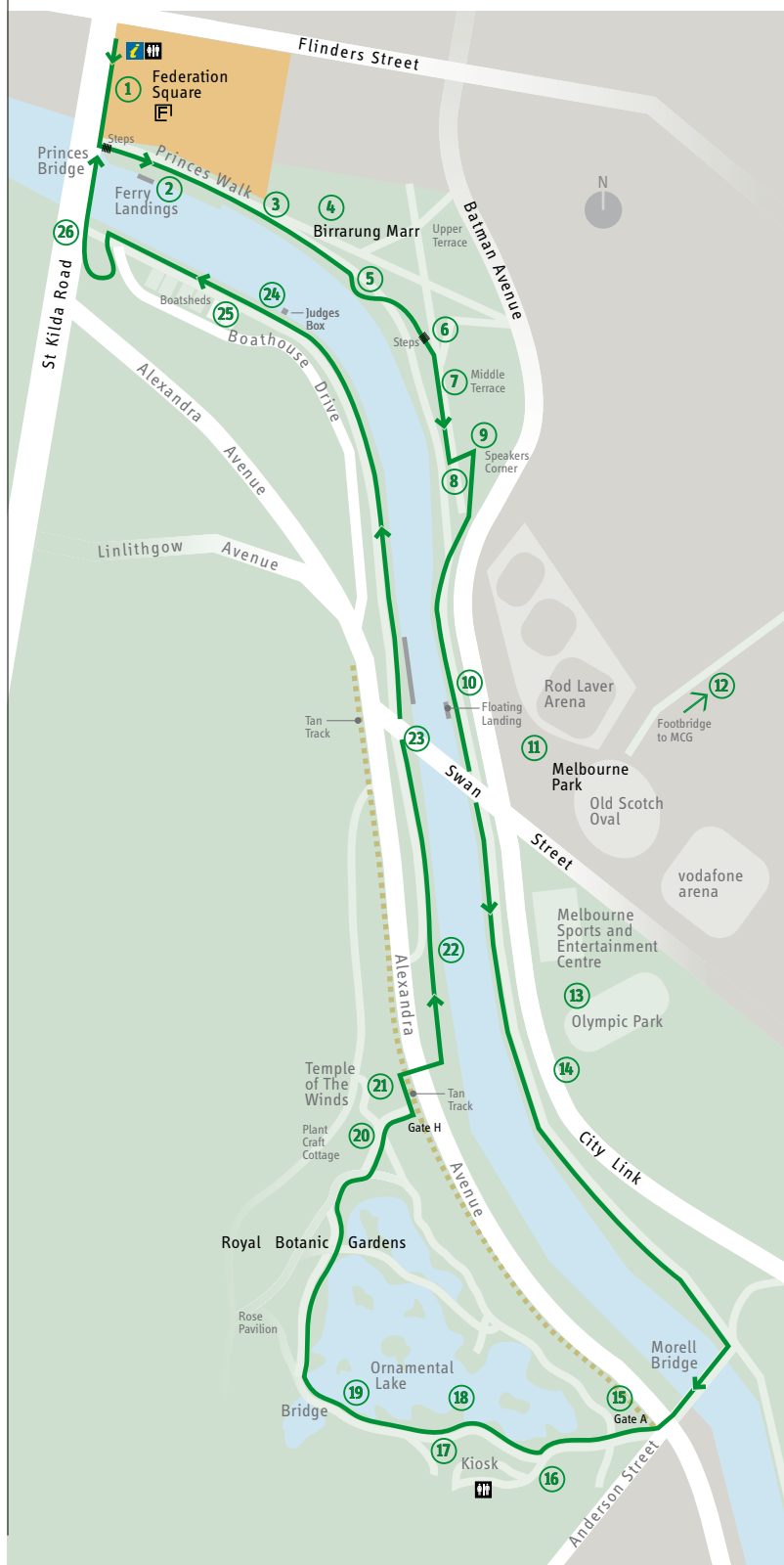
Cross over to the **Royal Botanic Gardens** (15), and enter through Gate A under the magnificent Durmast Oak. Stroll down to the old river bend, now an Ornamental Lake. The River Red Gum on your right is a remnant of the natural vegetation that grew here before

the Gardens were first planted in 1846.

Walk straight ahead to the Separation Tree Rest House. Opposite the rest house is **The Separation Tree** (16), where Victorians in 1850 celebrated news of their coming independence from New South Wales (which became effective in 1851).



Ornamental Lake, Royal Botanic Gardens



Follow the signs to the elegant **Terrace Tea Rooms** (17) and relax with a drink and a snack. Enjoy the sweeping views over the **Ornamental Lake** (18). Spot the bird life, eels in the lake, and Government House where Victoria's Governor lives.

Stroll on past the **William Tell Rest House** (19) and over the bridge, hugging the lake. The lake system was progressively developed from the 1850s and incorporates a natural lagoon and an old river bend that remained after the Yarra River was straightened between 1897 and 1900.

Arrive at Gate H, near the rare plants of the Southern Chinese Collection. Look for the **Aboriginal Heritage Plaque and the Garden Directors' Names** (20) on a rock face near the gardens exit.

Through Gate H, look up to the **Temple of the Winds** (21) as you jog the



Morell Bridge



Melbourne University Boat Club

'Tan' track for an easy 100 metres, then cross Alexandra Avenue to a Melbourne institution, the **Yarra Barbecues** (22). Walk under **Swan Street Bridge** (23) and continue along the river towards the city. Look out for cyclists, roller bladers and power walkers passing by. In the early morning and late afternoon, you'll see rowers here. Pass the **Judge's Box** (24) (1930) then round a bend to the boatsheds. The first building, with its picturesque tower, was built in 1908 for the 50th anniversary of **Melbourne University Boat Club** (25) (Australia's oldest rowing club).

Walk up the ramp to **Princes Bridge** (26) and return to **Federation Square** (1).



Melbourne Walks

There are a number of self-guided walks in this series. These walks have been developed by Federation Square and the City of Melbourne.

For more information

Call City of Melbourne Hotline 9658 9658

Visit www.thatsmelbourne.com.au

Or visit the Melbourne Visitor Centre, Federation Square, Cnr Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne

Federation Square Management

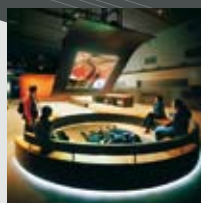
Telephone 03 9655 1900

www.fedsq.com

Federation Square



The Ian Potter Centre NGV Australia



Australian Centre for the Moving Image

Arts and Culture

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia
Mon-Thu 10am-5pm
Fri 10am-9pm
Sat-Sun 10am-6pm
Free Entry

Australian Centre for the Moving Image
Mon-Sun 10am-6pm
Free Entry

Australian Racing Museum
Mon-Sun 10am-6pm
Free Entry

Restaurants, Cafes and Bars

Arintji
Mon-Thu 10am-late
Fri 7am-late
Sat-Sun 8am-late
Bokchoy Tang
Mon-Sun 11.30am-late
Café Chinotto
Mon-Sun 8am-late
Charmaine's
Mon-Sun 10am-late
Chocolate Buddha
Mon-Sun Noon-late
Feddish
Mon-Sun Noon-late
Funk Fish
Mon-Sun 11.30am-late

Reserve Restaurant
Mon-Fri Lunch & Dinner
Sat Dinner
The Wine Bar
Mon-Sun Noon-late
Youme
Mon-Sun 9am-5pm
Time Out Café
Mon-Fri 7am-late
Sat-Sun 8am-late
Transport
Mon-Sun Noon-late
Taxi Restaurant
Mon-Sun Noon-late
Zargatt
Mon-Fri 10am to late
Sat-Sun 10am-late

Shops and Retail

Best of Souvenirs
Open same hours as Melbourne Visitor Centre
Kirra Gallery
Mon-Thu 10am-6pm
Fri 10am-9pm
Sat-Sun 10am-6pm
The Cellar
Mon-Sun 10am-late
Urban Attitude
Sun-Thu 10am-6pm
Fri-Sat 10am-9pm
7-Eleven
Mon-Sun Early-late

Tourism Information

Melbourne Visitor Centre
Located at Federation Square
Cnr Flinders and Swanston Street
Open 7 days 9am-6pm

Melbourne Visitor Booth
Located at Bourke Street Mall
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Sat-Sun 10am-5pm
Public Holidays 10am-4pm

For assistance with any queries regarding Melbourne and 'What's on in the City', keep an eye out for our roving City Ambassadors in their distinct red outfits roaming the City.
Mon-Fri 10am-4pm
Sat 11am-2pm

Useful Numbers

Victorian Tourist Information	132 842
Best of Victoria Booking Service	9650 3663
The Met - train, buses and trams	131 638
V/Line - country and interstate transport	136 196
Travellers' Aid	9654 2600
CityLink etag information	132 629
Airport Bus - Skybus	9335 3066
National Trust of Australia	9656 9800
Ticketmaster 7	136 100
Ticketek	132 849
RACV Ticketing	131 329
Directory Assistance	1223
Emergency - police, fire and ambulance	000
Weather	9669 4916

